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June 4, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

EPFD responds to ComSAR event

Firefighters respond to ComSAR event at Aztec Cave Trail

El Paso, Texas – At approximately 10:56 a.m. on Sunday June 4, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to Tom Mays Park in the Franklin Mountain State Park when a 10-year-old girl sustained an injury and her fellow hiker called 9-1-1. The first unit arrived on the scene at 11:13 a.m. and spotted several hikers pointing toward the top of the Aztec Cave Trail. The Combined Search and Rescue team was immediately dispatched to reach the injured hiker. The ComSAR team reached the injured hiker at 12:51 p.m.

After medical treatment was given to the patient, the ComSAR team brought the girl down in a rescue basket. The patient and the team were safely off the mountain at 2:49 p.m. The girl was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries Code 1 (no lights, no sirens).

There were no injuries to ComSAR personnel. A total of 5 units and 21 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department, El Paso Police and Texas Parks and Wildlife responded to this incident.

The El Paso Fire Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife would like to remind the public to practice these safety recommendations when planning outdoor hiking/climbing activities.

- Plan before you go. Know rules and regulations. Also, do not hike beyond your capabilities.
- Stay on the trail always. Walking off-trail increases your chance of suffering an injury, getting lost, or encountering dangerous wildlife. In addition, desert soils are fragile. Cutting across switchbacks tramples vegetation, erodes the soil and eventually destroys the trail.
- Have a cell or mobile phone for emergencies, but do not rely on them only. Carry with you a whistle, mirror, flag, flashlight, flare or other means to signal your location.
- Check weather conditions and wear proper clothing accordingly. Avoid doing activities during extreme temperatures. Seek shelter in the event of strong winds and thunderstorms.

For a list of more detailed hiking, biking and camping tips, the public is encouraged to visit:
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/fire-department/divisions/fire-prevention>.

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